BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

226957

STB Finance Docket No. 35305

BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY'S REPLY TO THE SHIPPER INTERESTS' JOINT PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE REBUTTAL EVIDENCE AND ARGUMENT

BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") hereby replies to the Joint Petition for Extension of Time to File Rebuttal Evidence and Argument served by the so-called "Shipper Interests" on May 5, 2010. The Shipper Interests seek to extend the deadline for filing rebuttal evidence by eighteen days—from May 17, 2010, to June 4, 2010. Although BNSF does not oppose an extension, BNSF believes that a shorter ten-day extension to May 27, 2010, is more appropriate because of the expedited nature of this proceeding.

As the Board is aware, BNSF suspended the effective date of its coal dust tariff provisions (items 100 and 101 of BNSF's Rule Publication 6041-B) from November 1, 2009, to August 1, 2010, so that the Board would have a chance by that date to affirm the reasonableness of BNSF's coal dust standards. For that same reason, BNSF proposed an expedited schedule for this proceeding (AECC also proposed an expedited schedule), and the Board set such a schedule. In light of the expedited nature of this proceeding and the fast-approaching August 1st effective date of BNSF's coal dust tariff provisions, BNSF believes that the deadline for filing rebuttal evidence should be extended to no later than May 27, 2010.

A ten day extension will be sufficient to avoid prejudice to any party. It means that the parties to this proceeding would have nearly four weeks to prepare rebuttal evidence.

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Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEYS FOR BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY

May 6, 2010

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 6th day of May 2010, I caused a copy of the foregoing BNSF's Reply to the Shipper Interests' Joint Petition for Extension of Time to File Rebuttal Evidence and Argument to be served on the following Parties of Record by e-mail and First-Class mail postage prepaid:

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